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REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KALAKAUA---FIFTEENTH YEAR.

REPORT ✓

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

TO VISIT THE KAKAAKO

LEPER SETTLEMENT

TO THE

Hawaiian Islands.
LEGISLATURE OF 1888.



HONOLULU:

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1888.

REPORT ✓

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE

TO VISIT

KAKAAKO LEPER SETTLEMENT,

LEGISLATURE OF 1888.

 HON. S. G. WILDER,
President of the Legislature, Session A. D. 1888 :

SIR :—The undersigned, a Special Committee appointed on resolution of Hon. H. P. Baldwin, "To visit the Kakaako Leper Hospital ; to examine into the condition of the Hospital ; the method and system of conducting the affairs of the institution, and any other matter of importance relating to a hospital of this nature," beg to make the following report :

In compliance with the above resolution, your Committee visited in person the Kakaako Branch Hospital Wednesday, the 13th instant, in company with the President of the Board of Health and Dr. J. H. Kimball, Government resident physician at Honolulu. At the time there were in the Hospital fifty-three lepers whom the Committee, upon their arrival, found scattered over the grounds and through the cottages, but, upon the

request of the President, they went to their several quarters, so that there might be complete inspection. The Committee first proceeded to the reception room and registered their names in the visitors' book, and from there across the hall to the dispensary, which has the appearance of a small druggist's shop, and where the prescriptions of Dr. Kimball, who has charge of the Hospital, are put up by Sister Superior Marianne, a professional druggist. The Committee was informed that the Doctor, at 10 A. M. each day, was in the habit of inspecting the wards and patients, and making necessary prescriptions, which were administered by those in charge. The treatment varied. Dr. Unna's and other methods of treatment are used alternately upon different patients—in the discretion of the attendant physician.

While there was no evidence of cure in any case through treatment, there was proof of improvement and increased comfort thereby.

From the dispensary the Committee passed to the dining-rooms and hospital kitchen. All food is cooked by two Chinese (non-lepers), and is served up in two dining-rooms—one said to be used only by the lightest cases.

Everything at the Hospital had the appearance of permanent order and cleanliness. The lock-up was next inspected. A small house with four or five compartments provided for discipline of refractory patients, but which, the Committee were informed, had never been used but once.

The cottages on the Waikiki side of the enclosure are set apart for female patients. Of these cottages, one is used exclusively for young girls some 10 or 15, of whom

we found ranging in age from 4 or 5 to say 14 years. At the time they were in the school-room in company with one of the Sisters sewing, most of them light, but all pronounced cases of leprosy. Other cottages on that side were occupied by young and middle aged women.

No cases of suspected leprosy are detained in the Hospital, all patients being either lepers in transition or cases with light symptoms whom it was thought better to detain for a while at Kakaako under treatment.

No complaints were made by any of the patients except one woman from Kealia, Kauai, who evidently claimed that she was not a leper, also that she was not being treated. From the evidence of her own roommate and of the Sister, it was apparent that her last statement was clearly incorrect. As to whether she was a leper or not, your Committee ascertained for certain that she had been pronounced such by the Board of Examiners, and a personal examination by members of the Committee in the presence of the doctor, convinced them that it was not their duty to go further, except to recommend that she be examined once more in order that no mistake be made in the matter.

The Committee next proceeded to the cottages occupied by the men. A number of boys, say ten or twelve, about the same age and condition as the girls above referred to were found ranged on the veranda of the first cottage. They all removed their hats and greeted with very polite bows. The general health of the patients seemed exceptionally good. Some of the members of your Committee were also on the committee which visited the Hospital during the extra session, and remember their seeing some of these boys now there, apparently about the same, the disease either

through treatment or for some other reason having been quiescent. Two among their number were specially noted by your Committee as being the two lads (sons of the late Rev. M. Kuaea) who, by resolution of this Legislature at the extra session, were placed under the treatment of Mr. S. H. Meekapu. Members of your Committee had not the opportunity of seeing their condition when they first came to the Hospital, but they certainly are still pronounced cases of leprosy much more developed than several other boys that your Committee saw there. Mr. Meekapu was in attendance during the visit, and informed the members of the Committee that the boys were under far better control for systematic treatment at the Hospital than at home. He has had free daily access to them. There were, besides the boys, a number of grown male patients.

There is no barrier between the quarters for men and women, except such as is raised by their own sense of propriety and the control of those in charge. From the men's quarters we went through into the enclosure known as the "Kapiolani Home," established for non-leprous children of lepers. There we found fourteen girls, ranging in ages from 4 or 5 to 15, possibly 16, all as your Committee understood, born of parents who were lepers at the time, and yet, so far, without any symptoms of the disease. They were occupied in making up garments for the lepers, a great deal of such work being accomplished by them. Most of them have been there since 1885, and no inmate has as yet developed leprosy. Your Committee was informed that there are a number of non-leprous children at the Leper Settlement whom it is intended shortly to bring to the Home. Though there are barriers formed by houses and fences

shutting off the Leper Hospital proper from the Kapio-lani Home, yet all precautions do not prevent lepers from intruding at times.

With the Hospital located in a salt pond swamp, the fine growth of grass, flowers, and different fruit and shade trees is a matter of surprise. Two ante-chambers on either side of the entrance to the Hospital are provided for the public, and are free at all hours. There are two rooms on the inside opposite to these anti-chambers from which lepers may talk with and see relatives and friends. Wire screens and an interval of several feet prevent physical contact. Notwithstanding all precautions, your Committee feel satisfied that lepers get out and persons get into the Hospital grounds during the night. Persons may be seen at the entrance to the Hospital at all hours of the day multiplying into a positive crowd when lepers are to be sent to Molokai, or on other special occasions. We wish to lay special stress upon the good offices of the Franciscan Sisters—five in number—who have charge of the Hospital and Home. Their services are simply invaluable. All honor to whom honor is due.

So much for what your Committee saw and heard during their visit to the Hospital, and, as a matter of fact, after careful consideration, we have no change to suggest in its management. As far as your Committee could observe, all was being done that the Board could do for the unfortunate patients; but one of the questions confronting the Committee, and within the scope of their duties was whether the Kakaako Hospital should be continued on at all or not. This question has had our most careful consideration. There were several points to be considered:

First: Whether there should be any place outside of the Leper Settlement at Molokai for treatment of lepers for cure?

Second: If so, should it be at Kakaako?

Third: If there was to be no place for treatment of lepers outside of Molokai, should Kakaako be continued on as a receiving station, or should some other site be chosen?

That there should be scientific treatment of leprosy for cure, or a condition as near cure as possible, your Committee does not question. It is not a matter of argument; but where should such treatment be had? Near Honolulu or at Molokai? It cannot be at both places. The enormous expense of two establishments puts that beyond question, especially where one can do the work of two. The main arguments in favor of Honolulu are:

First: The Hospital would be nearer the source of supplies.

Second: Persons would not have the aversion to entering a hospital here that they would if located at Molokai.

Third: Merely suspected or suspicious cases, and therefore the most hopeful, might be treated in a hospital here; whereas they would not, and should not, go to Molokai for treatment until they were known to be lepers.

The main arguments in favor of treatment at Molokai are:

First: Every leper segregated should have the means of treatment at hand if he desires it, and, as it is out of the question bringing the whole settlement down here

to be treated, treatment here would result in leaving the majority of lepers there without treatment.

Second: If a hospital were to be established here, even though several miles from town, segregation would be broken down more or less, notwithstanding all precautions. As long as relatives could see their sick they would flock around the hospital begging for favors, interviews, etc. Patients who were otherwise well and strong would grow restive under continued restraint, and with a city near at hand, would break bounds. Patients who thought or claimed that they were cured would insist on release, and in short, as one physician said, it would be a case simply of agony prolonged.

Third: The Board would be compelled to elect who should stay for treatment, and who should go on to Molokai. Most all would claim the right to stay for treatment, and the decisions of the Board in this respect, whatever they might be, would arouse bitterness and resentment in those who were compelled to go on to Molokai.

Fourth: The number of suspected, but really uncertain cases, are few, and anyone who cannot be pronounced a leper is not within the control of the Government. It would not require much delay before a suspected case would have developed sufficiently (if leprosy) to enable the physicians to pass upon it.

Your Committee had about reached the conclusion that Molokai, and Molokai alone, was the place for treatment, and that all time, money and skill within the command of the Government should be concentrated on the systematic development and perfection in every particular of the asylum at Molokai, but not wishing to act hastily, met the Board of Health by appointment to

consider the matter in company with Drs. Trousséau and McKibbin, both physicians of many years' experience in the segregation and care of lepers. Both physicians and the Board of Health unhesitatingly gave as their opinion that a hospital for treatment outside of Molokai was impracticable.

Your Committee therefore had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that only one establishment for lepers, outside of Molokai, was needed, and that was a receiving station merely at some point near Honolulu. The question therefore narrowed down to this: Shall Kakaako be retained as a receiving station only? The two arguments in favor of its retention are its proximity to the landing, and therefore convenience for receiving and shipping, and the expense of making a change and the increase of expense after the change has been made. The arguments against its retention are:

First: That it is an unhealthy locality.

Second: Being so near town, it is constantly attracting idle people and others to it.

Third: It is not certain that its proximity is not a menace to the health of the town or of the healthy residents of Kakaako near by, and last, the fact that by its prominence at the entrance of the harbor it becomes a standing advertisement to strangers and tourists of the prevalence of a menacing, loathsome and often insanely dreaded disease.

The last argument decided the Committee to recommend unanimously, notwithstanding the expense involved, that Kakaako be entirely demolished and a suitable receiving station be erected at Kalihi or some other suitable locality.

The Board of Health and Dr. Trousseau are in favor of the view. Dr. McKibbin said that if all of the buildings but a small portion were removed and trees planted up around it, he thought it would cease to attract attention ; but as all concur that at all odds it should be so fixed as not to attract attention, and as it is certain that it will not attract attention at Kalihi, and it is certainly disputed but that it will attract attention at Kakaako, however fixed, and in view of the contemplated effort on a large scale to encourage tourists to visit our islands, your Committee came to the conclusion that the Government had better make sure work of it and place the establishment, once and for all, where all such establishments properly belong—out of sight.

The Kapiolani Home should also be removed as soon as practicable. The locality is unquestionably very unhealthy.

The Superintendent of Public Works estimates that it would cost something over \$2,000 to take down the Kakaako Hospital, and with the material to rebuild at Kalihi. The Committee visited Kalihi in person. Some fifty odd acres of land at Kalihikai, considerably below the Government road, can be leased by the Government at \$25 a month, and in case a station is established there lepers may either be shipped direct from Kalihi or at Kawa, opposite the bullock pen.

Therefore, to conclude, your Committee make the following recommendations :

That the Legislature do recommend to the Board of Health that Kakaako Hospital be entirely demolished, and that in its place a suitable station be erected at

Kalihi or some other available locality to be used as a receiving station only, and that efforts be set on foot to provide a complete and systematic treatment of lepers for cure at Molokai, and that as soon as practicable the Kapiolani Home be removed to some healthy locality.

W. A. KINNEY,

D. KAMAI,

L. A. THURSTON,

C. BERTELMANN.



LEPROSY.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH
TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF 1886.

HONOLULU, H. I.
DAILY BULLETIN STEAM PRINTING OFFICE.
1886.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

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Members—His Ex. Chas. T. Gulick, His Ex. Hon. Paul Neuman,
Hons. A. S. Cleghorn and C. P. Iaukea.

Secretary—Hon. Fred. H. Hayselden.

Port Physician—John Brodie, M. D.

GOVERNMENT DISTRICT PHYSICIANS.

Oahu—E. Cooke Webb, Physician at the Dispensary, Maunakea Street; Branch Hospital, Kakaako; and Medical Inspector of Schools, Honolulu. M. Goto, Honolulu; G. W. Parker, Waialua; S. E. Craddock, Waianae.

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Hawaii—J. H. Kimball, Hilo; L. S. Thompson, Kohala; C. B. Greenfield, Hamakua; R. Oliver, Kau and Puna; B. O. Baker, Kona.

Kauai—St. D. G. Walters, Lihue; J. Borland, Koloa, Waimea, and Island of Niihau; D. Campbell, Kilauea.

AGENTS.

D. Dayton, Oahu; John H. Brown, Honolulu; T. W. Everett, Maui; Hon. Frank Pahia, Hawaii; S. W. Wilcox, Kauai; R. W. Meyer, Molokai. Inspector of Nuisances, C. B. Reynolds, Honolulu.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

Molokai—R. W. Meyer, Agent; Ambrose Hutchison, Assistant Superintendent.

BRANCH HOSPITAL AND KAPIOLANI HOME.

Kakaako, Honolulu.—In charge of the Sisters of Charity of the Order of St. Francis, from the Convent of St. Anthony, Syracuse, New York, U. S. A. Sister Marianne, Mother Superior.

MALULANI HOSPITAL.

Wailuku, Maui—In charge of the Sisters. Sister Bonaventura in charge.

3 1886

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APPENDIX

— TO THE —

REPORT ON LEPROSY

— OF THE —

PRESIDENT

— OF THE —

BOARD OF HEALTH

— TO THE —

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF 1886.



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LEPROSY IN HAWAII.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS

*Of Presidents of the Board of Health,
Government Physicians and others,
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IN REGARD TO LEPROSY BEFORE AND AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE
"ACT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF LEPROSY,"
APPROVED JANUARY 3RD, 1865.

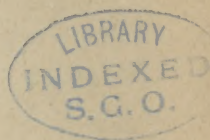
The Laws and Regulations in Regard to Leprosy
in the Hawaiian Kingdom.

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1886.

LEPROSY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.



SUMMARY OF REPORTS

FURNISHED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO HIS
HAWAIIAN MAJESTY'S AUTHORITIES, AS TO
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THE DISEASE.

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